

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions for the above-captioned application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Original) A metering tip capable of aspirating and dispensing a quantity of fluid, said metering tip comprising:
 - a tapered plastic body including an interior and a tip opening;
 - said interior including a plurality of adjacent stepped areas, each of said stepped areas including a sharp diametrical edge for latching a fluid meniscus and minimizes oscillation of a dispensed fluid.
2. (Original) A metering tip as recited in Claim 1, wherein said tip includes an axial portion having a substantially constant diameter.
3. (Original) A metering tip as recited in Claim 2, wherein said axial portion having the substantially constant diameter includes a read window.
4. (Original) A metering tip as recited in Claim 3, including at least one stepped area disposed above said read window.
5. (Original) A metering tip as recited in Claim 3, wherein said plurality of stepped areas are axially disposed between said tip opening and said read window.
6. (New) A metering tip capable of aspirating and dispensing a quantity of fluid, said metering tip comprising:
 - a tapered plastic body including an interior and a distal tip opening, said body further including an axial section having a substantially constant diameter, at least a portion of said axial section defining a read window;

said interior including at least one stepped area having a sharp diametrical edge for latching a fluid meniscus and reducing oscillation of a dispensed fluid, wherein said at least one stepped area is disposed above said read window.

7. (New) A metering tip as recited in Claim 6, including at least one stepped area disposed beneath said read window.

8. (New) A metering tip as recited in Claim 7, including a plurality of stepped areas disposed between said distal tip opening and said read window.

9. (New) A method for reducing fluid oscillation for a dispensed fluid from a metering tip, said method including the steps of:

providing at least one stepped area within the interior of a metering tip, said stepped area including a sharp diametrical edge for latching a fluid meniscus passing said stepped area.

10. (New) A method as recited in Claim 9, wherein said tip includes a read window to permit optical readings of a contained fluid, including the step of disposing said least one stepped area above said read window.